

ANNUAL REPORT



1965

MONTREAL

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

The Seventy-Second Annual Report of
Kamp Kanawana of the Y.M.C.A. of Montreal

Introduction

Kanawana is People.

George is ten years old, when he was about six years of age his father was in a serious motor accident and was over a year and a half recovering. The impact of George's father being away for so long a year ago showed through in George's behaviour. A very intelligent child he failed his year at school, was aggressive, unhappy and "difficult to manage". His parents took him for psychiatric help and it was found that one of his problems was that he was afraid to succeed. What George needed more than anything was to be in an environment away from the every day pressures where he would be accepted regardless of the "sometimes anti-social behaviour" and where he would have the opportunity to work on some skills to the point where he would have a reasonable degree of success. George's Counsellor is one of those fellows who, a little bit of so-called unusual behaviour didn't bother him very much, is a chap who has unlimited patience, and who had some understanding of George's problem. The boy wanted to swim but was afraid. The Junior Waterfront Director moved in to work with the Counsellor and before long George was able to duck his head without feeling too fearful and before the end of his stay he had mastered the first stage of the camp swimming program. Being able to swim fifty feet may not sound like much of an accomplishment but to a small boy with some emotional problems it was an exciting accomplishment. His parents informed the camp that George has seemed much happier since camp and he is still proudly wearing his "red disc" indicating that he has passed the first stage in the swimming program, it is now eight weeks since he has left the camp.

Gordon is a foster child whose foster parents are a warm and loving couple and have taken this boy into their hearts as well as their home. Kanawana has had quite a number of foster boys at Camp but what makes Gordon so unique is that he is almost totally blind. He has some sight vision in one eye and with extraordinary thick lenses he can read a little. Gordon desperately needs to be like other boys and doesn't want his blindness to hamper him. At the closing camp fire he was presented with a "Golden Arrow" which is an award that has been instituted at camp this summer and presented at the discretion of the staff to any boy in camp who shows extraordinary personal achievement during his stay. This is not a "popularity poll" but an award that is given on recommendation only.

Gordon learned to go off the high dive at camp, a real achievement when you can't see where the water is. He had also earned his "C" canoeist and nobody made the test any easier for Gordon. He had to measure up to the standard of fully sighted boys. Can you imagine how Gordon felt when he left camp on the last day of the season.

These are but two of the many stories that could be related about the Seventy-Second Season at Kanawana.

This season at Kanawana was markedly different from any in the writer's experience. There was a new feeling of excitement at Kanawana this summer - the campers felt it, the staff felt it. For many years Kanawana has been concerned that the campers had fun, and that campers and staff alike had the opportunity to grow and develop. To help attain these goals the best methods of doing so have been searched out.

This summer an innovation in staff training was made with the introduction of the laboratory training method. In order to bring in this method the training program was lengthened from one to two weeks prior to the opening of camp. Senior personnel from the Montreal YMCA staff participated as trainers in this program and six days were devoted to the laboratory training.

The impact of this training on the camp was startling! The understanding and insights gained by the staff through the specialized training program helped them to give the kind of help and leadership to campers that was so important to George and Gordon. Because of self-insight and understanding the staff were able to function more competently together and this produced a satisfying working experience which reflected again in the way that staff were able to work with the campers.

Over the past years the Director has constantly worked toward a maximum of staff participation in the development of program and in carrying out the administrative practices of the camp. He has also worked to develop a permissive climate in which staff could be freed to develop their own potential and creativeness. This emphasis combined with the human relations-sensitivity training of this season culminated in an exciting and satisfactory experience for both staff and campers.

This major advance in staff training has made a considerable impact on the Director of Kanawana which can possibly best be described by relating an incident of a young camper getting lost for a brief period of time this season.

It is the practice of the camp when a camper does become lost, to constantly toll the camp bell to serve as a directional signal both for the lost camper and the search party. Happily this child was never more than fifteen or twenty feet from his cabin but he had concealed himself in such a way that the search party did not find him for sometime. To make the job of tolling the bell easier the staff member responsible, instead of using the clapper of the bell, used a hatchet with which he repeatedly struck the bell. For many people who read this, they will no doubt feel a touch of nostalgia when they hear that the bell was cracked but to the writer it seemed almost prophetic. This bell which has signalled camp time for many, many years was damaged in the performance of its duty, but with the growing feeling throughout the camp on the part of both staff and campers, the era that was signalled for so long by this old bell may well have drawn to a close, this incident in turn signals the beginning of a whole new era of camping both in concept and in program.

Last Spring Mr. Jack Breckenridge agreed to chair the Camp Committee's sub-committee on Planning and Development, as requested by the Metropolitan Planning and Development Committee. The initial purposes of this Committee is to probe in depth the goals and purposes of Kanawana with a view to re-stating and/or re-defining these goals and purposes of Kanawana so that they may prove even more meaningful to the thousands of boys who will be coming in the future.

There may well be changes but it needs to be recognized that the children of today and tomorrow cannot possibly have the same concept of camping as those who have camped in the past. Many of the parents of our campers have no concept of camping as it was twenty years ago. The idea of "roughing it" has long since passed and unacceptable to parents and campers. The tremendous commercial emphasis on family camping is educating people to a whole new concept of camping. The portable gas refrigerators, heaters, and a complete line of camping equipment have been designed with one idea in mind - comfort for the user. This added to the increased comforts of homes today, and the advanced technical work being done to provide added comforts for living, legislate against the concept of camping that has been held for so many years.

It will be necessary to re-examine the plant and the equipment of the Kanawana of today in light of our changing society, its economics, its needs, and desires. The privy toilets which were used without thought in the past are completely unacceptable to the children of today hence Kanawana has modernized these facilities. The overnight shelter of yesterday which could be made swiftly and simply out of the equipment that nature had supplied is available only on the Kanawana property because where our campers hike today is private property and the owners do not take kindly to having their trees cut to make shelters.

So Kanawana now has to look to providing the type of equipment which will give adequate shelters for youngsters on overnight hikes to protect them against the elements.

The concept of being close to nature and learning of nature should in no way be diminished but rather the methods we use need to be examined. Boys still love the thrill of canoe trips, the opportunity of shooting the rapids, and of being far away from civilization on the edge of a crystal pure lake, sitting around the camp fire. The bull sessions with their buddies on the goings on of the day, or looking into the future as to the career they would like to follow, solving the religious problems of their day, discussing politics and the space age are meaningful experiences.

Two recognized facts are, the children coming to Kanawana today are increasingly sophisticated and the youngsters of today are maturing at a much earlier age than they did even ten years ago. The mass communication media are adding to this sophistication. The tremendous technological strides being made in our society are adding their part in the speed up of this growth and development. The question Kanawana needs to face is - are the needs of campers of today being met?

The part of the report that follows cannot begin to catch the feeling of excitement, fun and satisfaction that permeated Kanawana this summer. One needs to actually experience the thrill of being part of this season's experience to really feel what has happened. At best that which follows is an effort to report on some aspects of Kanawana '65.

Staff Training

Staff training commenced on June 13th this year. A week earlier than previous years but it had been decided to hold a two week pre-camp training period.

The program started with a two day general camp orientation. This was followed with a five and a half day intensive laboratory T-Group training program with four senior members of the Montreal YMCA staff serving as trainers - they were Ted Lowe, Public Relations Secretary for the Montreal YMCA, Bruce McFarlane, Executive Director of the Verdun-LaSalle Branch, Ray Rouse, Executive Secretary of the Northmount Branch and Rix Rogers the Co-Ordinator of Staff Development.

The staff in their evaluation of the program felt it had been one of the most satisfying and best learning experiences that the staff as a group had had at Kanawana. Each member of the staff was presented with the opportunity for growth and change and he had the option of accepting or rejecting these opportunities. Each member of the staff had the opportunity to experience being a member of a real live group with the opportunity to sit back and examine what was happening within the group setting. This gave the individual staff member a greater insight into camper groups that he was to work with throughout the summer and hence made him a much more effective staff member as he worked with the campers.

The second week of the training program included camping skills training and further orientation to the camp and the general organization.

Promotion

This year the Camp Committee under the leadership of Morey Cross developed a carefully thought out promotion program. Gavin Turley was hired on a part-time basis to carry out the promotion program also to serve as Business Manager for the camp. He carried out his responsibilities in a most effective and efficient manner.

Unfortunately, notwithstanding this excellent promotional program the registration at the camp was at the lowest it has been in many years with a total of some 1200 weeks realized on a budget of 1500 weeks. There are many factors that contribute to this lowered attendance this year and the following are suggested:

- (a) The very poor weather conditions that have existed over the last three summers particularly during the month of August no doubt were the biggest contributing factor. This fall-off in attendance was severely felt by many camps in the area.
- (b) The increase in fees may have had some effect on attendance.
- (c) The increase in family camping no doubt added its toll to fewer youngsters coming to camp.

- (d) Summer school for youngsters who do not do particularly well in their school year definitely contributed to this fall-off this year as a fair number of applications were cancelled out due to the fact that some boys had to go to summer school.
- (e) Another contributing factor is the fact that each year the length of the average stay of the camper at Kanawana gets shorter as the statistical report will indicate.
- (f) It is also suggested that Kamp Kanawana is not seen as a status camp and with the fee being charged today - by paying a very little more the youngster can be sent to one of the status private camps.

This problem of filling the camp is indeed a serious one but the program initiated this past winter and spring was developed as a long range program and has moved into gear immediately upon the closing of camp. Gavin Turley the Business Manager will continue to give leadership to this promotion program through the fall and winter. This problem will require special consideration by the Camp Committee early this fall. So good was the experience of the campers this year it is suggested that this will have a very positive effect on registration for the coming '66 Season.

Staff

The 1965 Season saw one of the finest staffs the Director has had the privilege of working with. The staff group was enhanced by the fact that there were seven YMCA Fellowship Students on the staff most of whom carried senior staff responsibilities. These men were able to make a unique contribution to the camp because of both their skills and their knowledge of the YMCA.

The Director is largely concerned with the hiring, training, and supervision of staff and gives considerable proportion of his time to this particular responsibility. A large percentage of the staff were university students and the average age of the counselling staff was maintained.

Increasingly Kanawana is attracting young men who are interested in the kind of experience they can receive as a staff member at Kanawana. This is particularly so for those who are moving toward the service professions. The opportunity to work in a permissive situation where they have the opportunity to use their own creativeness and initiative under competent supervision is an invaluable experience to these men.

Program

It will be recalled that an increased allotment was made for the program budget this year with a view to further improving the program materials and supplies. It did make a considerable improvement over the previous year, but further effort is still required to constantly upgrade the program opportunities in the camp. The reports of various program personnel in the camp are available and contain a considerable amount of useful information, suggestions and recommendations. Some of the recommendations will be caught up in this report; the other reports should be reviewed by the Committee for consideration and action. The overall program of the camp will be reviewed this winter by a staff committee at their request with a view to making further recommendations to the Camp Committee. This move is essential to be sure that the program and the materials and equipment are adequate to help the staff in their responsibilities in working with the campers.

Canoe tripping was as popular as ever at Kanawana, with as many as three and four trips out of camp at one time. Otoreke was used on several occasions by the Coureur de Bois campers for canoe trips of short duration.

Hiking is a popular part of program - every camper who came to Kanawana this summer was out on at least one overnight hike and often more.

One of the interesting highlights of the summer was a joint program with the Boy Scout Camp Tamaracouta. It will be recalled that Kanawana and Tamaracouta jointly purchased a property which joins the two camps. A program was held during the 7th week of camp, at which the new "Kanawana - Tamaracouta Trail" was officially opened by the "Factor" of Tamaracouta and the "Chief" of Kanawana with campers and staff from both camps in attendance. There followed an exciting day's program in which both camps met at the end of Lake Wilson, pitched camp and for a day joined in a program together. It is recommended by both camps that this joint program become an annual feature in the future as it proved to be a great success.

Administration

The overall administration of the camp was considerably more efficient this year due in no small measure to the fact that a decision was made to hire a permanent part-time Business Manager who would be prepared to stay on staff for a minimum of two years, working part-time through the winter and full-time during the summer. Gavin Turley, a Fellowship Student, was recruited for this position and he has done a most commendable job. He has a high degree of interest and loyalty in this particular responsibility and is making a fine contribution to Kanawana.

Plant

This year the camp plant has reached a peak in its overall condition. The painting program was a heavy one this year but the general repairs required around the camp were much less than in previous years and allowed for a good deal of brushing which considerably enhanced the appearance of the site.

Five new tents were purchased this year which means that all canvas is presently in A-1 shape short of the minor repairs that are required annually on some tents. As new tents were purchased the platform size was increased from 12 x 14 to 14 x 16 and larger tents purchased to accommodate them. This proved most helpful in the accommodations in the Coureur de Bois and Pathfinder Sections.

22,000 board feet of lumber was cut at camp last winter, as well as approximately 100 cords of firewood which would tell any Camp Committee member that Julien Tasse was hard at work last winter. Reference is also made to the excellent condition of the plant which drew many favourable comments from parents, staff and laymen during the summer.

All of this has been due to the continuing excellent job that Julien does for Kanawana. He was assisted by Mrs. Tasse who does the camp laundry during the summer, as well as taking care of the feeding of the advance party for the period of six weeks before camp opens.

A Camp Plant Manual is now being developed which will give actual photographs, all the dimensions of the buildings and their immovable contents e.g. electric light outlets, running water, sinks, etc. Repairs and maintenance charts of each individual building will be included. It will be the responsibility of the Business Manager to keep this workbook up to date. This manual of operations will also be most helpful to the Camp Committee as they discuss the various aspects of plant maintenance and repairs.

Food Services

This year for the first time in many years, there were two highly skilled chefs working together in the camp kitchen. A year ago the Director expressed a concern over the fact that the assistant to the chef was inevitably an unskilled person due to the low rate of pay. The Camp Committee last year authorized an increased amount so that a competent assistant could be hired. This, plus careful supervision, resulted in a vastly improved food situation in the camp to the point where both campers and staff were pleased and satisfied with the food.

The Camp Committee authorized the purchase of new dishes to replace the very old and discolored camp dishes. New plastic dishes, manufactured by the Cyanamid Company of Canada, were purchased. These are a white dish with a colorful border design in blue. These added much to the attractiveness of the dining hall tables and, here again, satisfaction was expressed by both the campers and staff.

Staff Change

Mrs. Olga Hall joined the camp staff as the Office Secretary in the spring, taking over from Mrs. Duffy who left to have a family. Mrs. Hall has moved in very quickly in an efficient manner and has made an excellent contribution to our operation. She deals politely and effectively with the parents and no amount of work "is too much". For example, during the mail strike we had youngsters write letters and these were brought by hand to the camp office with the understanding that if parents did call in enquiring about the youngsters they would be told there was mail waiting there for them.

Mrs. Hall took it upon herself to telephone each and every parent whose child had written letters and informed them that there was mail there from their boys and they could pick it up and bring letters for their children which, in turn, would be taken up to camp. This gesture was most appreciated by the parents and, certainly, Mrs. Hall made an excellent contribution to the public relations program of the camp.

Recommendations

More adequate housing for the camp caretaker and his family is imperative and pressing and should receive immediate attention.

It is recommended that the back ballfield have major work done on it prior to next season with a view to enlarging it, leveling it, and making it more suitable a play area as the camp is limited by a lack of adequate flat play areas.

It is recommended that the Program Staff Reports be reviewed by the Camp Committee for consideration.

Co-ed Camping -

There was considerable discussion amongst the staff this year regarding the possibility of introducing co-ed camping at Kanawana. It will be recalled that under the Chairmanship of Keith Farquharson a committee did an extensive survey of the YMCA constituency to ascertain interest in camping for girls. There was a very large and positive response to this survey which would indicate there would be considerable support for such a project. A recommendation was made to the Metropolitan Board of Directors that consideration be given to the establishment of a girls camp, following the report, but the Metropolitan Board indicated that while there was a good deal of interest in such a project, it could not be contemplated at that time because of other items that had to take priority at that time.

Children today, in practically all instances, take part in co-ed activities in the Montreal YMCA and camping need not be an exception. There are many co-ed camps in existence today which are providing an excellent camping experience for the campers. Co-ed camping at Kanawana would offer the opportunity to fill the need for camping experience for many girls who are members of the YMCA and this type of an operation would help to round out the YMCA experience for our girl members.

It is recommended that the Camp Committee give consideration to the setting-up of a pilot project in co-ed camping at Kanawana for the 1966 season. It is recommended that this pilot project be operated in the Woodsmen Section of the camp (10 and 11 year old). This section lends itself to such a project. One additional unit could be added (this could be a tent) which would provide eight units in the section, four of which would be boys and four would be girls. There is adequate accommodation for staff in the section. The toilet facilities are adequate as presently constituted and would require only a partition and a doorway to the present building to allow for separate toilet facilities. One other addition required would be an adequate wash house with showers for the girls and this would not be an expense of more than \$300. or \$400.

Appreciation of Kanawana is expressed to the many people who contributed to the growth and development of the Youth who attended the camp.

The N.D.G. Y's Men's Club

Westmount Branch YMCA

Westmount Police Department

Mr. Romeo Lafleur

All of the staff of the Montreal YMCA

Respectfully submitted,

A. Ross Seaman,
Director

KAMP KANAWANA TEN YEAR SUMMARY

<u>Camper Weeks by Sections</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
Pioneer	408	390	382	357	393	373	349	406	408	370	314
Woodsmen	407	407	399	397	362	392	388	420	434	388	294
Coueurs de Bois	375	372	393	371	404	378	346	390	385	372	323
Pathfinders	378	373	392	380	344	394	380	378	374	360	251
Rangers	46	84	130	118	62	48	46	46	40	28	-
TOTALS	1614	1624	1696	1623	1565	1585	1509	1640	1641	1518	1182
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<u>No. of Campers Each Week</u>											
1st Week	200	179	208	202	206	208	191	220	218	183	154
2nd	198	182	207	202	206	208	191	220	218	185	154
3rd	206	218	228	211	218	223	221	224	224	217	218
4th	214	218	227	208	218	221	222	224	221	215	219
5th	208	211	209	211	215	214	208	220	220	201	137
6th	209	209	209	212	215	212	208	220	220	200	134
7th	201	204	206	190	146	150	135	156	160	137	83
8th	178	203	202	187	141	149	133	156	160	137	83
TOTALS	1614	1624	1696	1623	1565	1585	1509	1640	1641	1518	1182
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Number of Campers	473	523	558	538	526	545	503	548	567	535	429
Average length of stay(weeks)	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.97	2.98	3.0	2.89	2.6	2.85	2.75
Percentage former campers	46.7	48.4	43.2	48.3	44.6	43.1	44.7	49.2	51.2	43.92	40.6
Percentage "Y" members	27.3	30.6	31.4	31.4	34.4	38.3	35.6	37.1	36.2	37.5	38.0

TEN YEAR SUMMARY

AGE OF CAMPERS	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
7											5
8	65	73	47	18	49	54	35	76	70	70	33
9	88	87	68	60	69	81	69	92	83	85	68
10	80	91	102	87	102	76	99	107	88	87	88
11	73	92	96	115	103	97	84	89	76	90	83
12	77	72	88	84	102	99	77	81	91	80	73
13	55	58	74	80	58	79	68	51	76	75	43
14	26	35	50	45	31	43	45	38	40	21	21
15	7	11	27	39	11	15	23	14	21	17	14
16	2	4	6	10	1	1	3	2	12	10	1
STAY IN CAMP											
1 week	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	2	1
2 weeks	211	324	375	367	338	369	65.6	316	62.8	345	62.6
3 weeks	77	3	0	3	4	3	1	1	2	7	3
4 weeks	97	137	122	109	137	129	143	163	143	131	111
5 weeks & up	80	57	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	12	2
6 weeks & up	0	0	19	23	19	16	21	19	21	-	19
8 weeks & up	0	0	43	36	27	26	22	20	29	20	5
BY WEEKS											
Protestant	975	1134	1178	1203	1154	1079	963	1013	963	964	705
Roman Cath.	216	170	222	184	229	258	266	311	318	312	264
Jewish	423	320	296	236	184	248	280	338	360	174	197
Buddhist								8		4	2
Not reported											24
AGE OF COUNSELLORS											
16-18	24	21	28	29	19-17 yr	14-17 yr	5-17 yr	5-17 yr	2-17 yr	2-17 yr	3-17 yr
19-21	6	7	5	8	9-18 "	7-18 "	12-18 "	14-18 "	9-18 "	11-18 "	10-18 "
22-27	2	3	5	4	5-19 "	4-19 "	6-19 "	7-19 "	9-19 "	4-19 "	11-19 "
28-	0	1	0	0	3-22-27 "	2-20 "	3-20 "	2-20 "	5-20 "	5-20 "	1-20 "
						2-21 "	3-21 "	2-21 "	2-21 "	4-21 "	1-21 "
							2-22 "	1-22 "	3-22 "	2-22 "	1-22 "
								1-23 "	2-23 "	1-23 "	
								1-26 "	1-26 "	1-24 "	1-26 "

TEN YEAR SUMMARY

	COLIEGE MEN COUNSELLORS	AVERAGE COUNSELLOR AGE	NUMBER OF PROGRAM STAFF	RATIO CAMPER TO STAFF (to 1)	NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	JUNIOR COUNSELLORS IN TRAINING	COUNSELLORS IN TRAINING
1955	0	0	11	49.1 (to 1)	16		
1956	0	0	10	5	17		
1957	0	0	11	4.3	16		
1958	0	0	17	3.9	17		
1959	8	18.11	17	3.4	16		
1960	11-37.9%	18.19	18	4.2	17		
1961	10-33.5%	19.4 yrs	17	4	16	9	
1962	10-31.8%	18.6	16	4.5	17	9	
1963	20-60.6%	19.6 yrs	16	4.4	17	7	10
1964		19.4	53	3.47	19	8	
1965	42%	19	48	3.2	17	9	8

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF CAMPERS

Ile Perrot	- 2	Roxboro	- 7
Senneville	- 1	Dollard des Ormeaux	- 5
Baie D'Urfe	- 9	Pierrefonds	- 8
Beaurepaire	- 7		
Beaconsfield	-41		
Pointe Claire	-28		
Valois	- 5		
Dorval	-10		
Lachine	- 8		
Ville St. Pierre	- 1		
St. Laurent	-23	South Shore	-26
Ahunsic & Cartierville	- 5	Verdun-LaSalle	- 4
N.D.G. & Montreal West	-75	Hudson	- 5
Cote St. Luc	-26	Sherbrooke	- 2
Hampstead	- 9	Chomedey	- 6
Westmount	-33	Fabreville	- 2
Central	- 4	Montreal East	- 3
Outremont	-12	Ville D'Anjou	- 6
North End	-11	From Ontario	- 5
Rosemount	- 3	From New Brunswick	- 1
T.M.R.	-20	Others from small towns in Quebec and U.S.A.	-15
Rosemere	- 1	(Campership Fund)	- 13